

## NASA'S OFFICE OF EDUCATION SEEKS STUDENTS TO DEFY GRAVITY FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

NASA's Office of Education announces the opportunity for students attending Minority Servicing Institutions (MSI) and Community Colleges to conduct research in a unique reduced gravity environment. Minority Servicing Institutions are named in the U. S. Department of Education Lists of Post-Secondary Institutions as of 12/31/2008 or after. For a list of Designated MIs, please go to: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html>. For institutions that serve a substantial Hispanic enrollment but have not been designated as an HSI or MI by the US Department of Education will be requested to submit documentation that the institution's full-time Hispanic enrollment is at least 25 percent of your total enrollment.

This opportunity is part of NASA's Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program, which gives aspiring explorers a chance to propose, design and fabricate a reduced gravity experiment. Selected teams will then get to test and evaluate their experiment aboard a microgravity aircraft, which flies about 30 roller-coaster-like climbs and dips to produce periods of micro and hyper gravity, ranging from 0 g's to 2 g's.

Students interested in testing an experiment in this unique environment need to submit their proposals by **January 26, 2011**.

Interested students should also submit a letter of intent by January 12, 2011. This step is optional, but serves as an introductory notice that a team plans to submit a proposal for the upcoming competition.

NASA will announce the selected teams March 2, 2011 to fly in June 2011. Each team can consist of five participants; four students and one professor/mentor to fly with them. Each team can also make the designation of one alternate.

All participants must:

- Be currently enrolled as a full-time or part-time student at an eligible MSI or Community College, or be a faculty member at the eligible institution
- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age

With this program, NASA continues its tradition of investing in the nation's education programs. It is directly tied to the Agency's major education goal of strengthening NASA and the nation's future workforce. Through this and the Agency's other college and university programs, NASA will identify and develop the critical skills and capabilities needed to achieve the Vision for Space Exploration.

Travel funding may be available for qualifying teams. Team participation in online mentoring sessions will be a requirement for all team members. This will be facilitated through the use of the NASA Minority Innovation Challenges Institute (MICI), an online virtual training ground at <http://www.NASAMICI.com>. All project documentation will also be housed there, please look

for the project exhibit booth. The first required session will be an overview from the project management on **December 14 at 3:00pm Eastern Time**, with a live question and answer period at the end. Students and faculty are encouraged to register in advance for the December 14 session by visiting <http://www.NASAMICIconference.com>. Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program personnel can also be contacted at, [jsc-reducedgravity@nasa.gov](mailto:jsc-reducedgravity@nasa.gov).

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

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| <b>Open Proposal Process:</b>            | December 1, 2010  |
| <b>Information Webinar (check MICI)</b>  | December 14, 2010 |
| <b>Letters of Intent (Optional) Due:</b> | January 12, 2011  |
| <b>Information Webinar (check MICI)</b>  | January 12, 2010  |
| <b>Proposals Due:</b>                    | January 26, 2011  |
| <b>Announcement of Selected Teams:</b>   | March 2, 2011     |
| <b>Test Equipment Data Package Due:</b>  | May 4, 2011       |
| <b>Flight Week at NASA JSC:</b>          | June 16-25, 2011  |
| <b>Final Reports Due:</b>                | August 31, 2011   |